

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 PA-01 ISO-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
STR-07 L-03 H-01 STRE-00 /098 W
-----032571 010541Z /10

P R 010510Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 638
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6869

STATE FOR EA/PRCM, EA/EP AND EB/OT/STA

STATE PASS STR FOR LANDE AND MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, HK, US
SUBJECT: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH HONG KONG

REF: STATE 135551

1. PER REFTEL CONGEN COMMERCIAL SECTION CHIEF AND ECONOMIC OFFICER
CALLED ON HONG KONG DIRECTOR OF TRADE LAWRENCE MILLS THURSDAY
MORNING JUNE 1 (DAVID JORDAN WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENT).
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAUL WONG AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DOUGLAS CHAN
ALSO ATTENDED MEETING. USING AN AIDE MEMOIRE (COPIES POUCHED EB/OT/
STA JUNE 1, 1978) DRAWN FROM REFTEL PARAS 2,3,4, 5 AND 6, WE
REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AT THE EARLIEST MUTUALLY
AGREEABLE DATE AND ASKED THE HKG TO PROVIDE FOOTWEAR TRADE
INFORMATION SPECIFIED REFTEL PARA 6.

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2. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWING THE NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR
ISSUE, MILLS GENIALLY NOTED THAT "HONG KONG WAS ALWAYS
PREPARED TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS" WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS,
BUT PREFERRED TO DO SO IN HONG KONG. HE PROPOSED JUNE 13 AND
14 OR ANY TIME FROM JULY 17 ONWARDS AS CONVENIENT TO HIS OWN
TRAVEL SCHEDULE.

3. SPEAKING TO THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, MILLS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT USG REQUEST SHOULD COME AT THIS JUNCTURE OF THE MTN IN GENEVA, AND HE OBSERVED THAT THE US REQUEST CONTAINED NO MENTION OF OTHER NON-OMA COUNTRIES' PERFORMANCES IN US MARKET. MILLS SAID THAT THE HKG WOULD REPLY TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND INDICATE HOW MUCH OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL PARA 6 IT COULD PROVIDE. MILLS DID NOT KNOW THAT STR NEGOTIATOR LANDE PALNED TO CALL IN HONG KONG COUNSELLOR CROWSON AND HAD NOT RECEIVED A REPORT ON THAT MEETING. FINALLY, MILLS STRESSED THAT BY AGREEING TO CONSULTATIONS ON FOOTWEAR, HE "DID NOT WISH TO IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEPART FROM ITS WELL-KNOWN AND FIRMLY HELD POLICY THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE RESTRAINTS ON TRADE."

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER JUNE 13, 14 OR JULY DATES PROPOSED BY THE HKG ARE ACCEPTABLE AND WHETHER USG NEGOTIATORS ARE PREPARED TO HOLD TALKS IN HONG KONG. CONGEN WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S ACCOUNT OF LANDE-CROWSON DISCUSSION MENTIONED REFTEL. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD THE LOCAL MEDIA LEARN OF OUR REQUEST FOR FOOTWEAR CONSULTATIONS.
SHOESMITH

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